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Letter dated 21 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention and that of the members of the General Assembly and the Security Council to some very serious developments in Cyprus resulting from and indicative of the aggressive aims of the Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus.

Only recently, you brought to the attention of the Security Council (see S/1995/561) the extensive constructions the Turkish side had undertaken on the Rokkas Bastion in contravention of the 1989 unmanning agreement between the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the Cyprus National Guard and the Turkish forces in Cyprus.

While the problem created by the Rokkas Bastion construction has not yet been satisfactorily resolved, with the Security Council still awaiting to be informed by you of the relevant developments, new information has surfaced indicating that the Turkish forces in Cyprus have secretly constructed extensive military fortifications all along the buffer zone.

The strengthening of the offensive capabilities of the Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus is a matter of grave concern. As you noted in your report on UNFICYP (S/1995/488) the northern part of the island, with its garrison of some 30,000 Turkish troops and some 4,500 Turkish Cypriot troops, remains one of the most highly militarized areas in the world in terms of the ratio between the numbers of military personnel and civilians. In addition to the grave concerns raised as a result of the numerical strength of the Turkish occupation troops, equal, if not graver, concerns are raised with respect to the upgrading of their armaments. In the same report, you stated that during the reporting period, the Turkish forces had completed their programme to upgrade their fleet of between 250 and 300 tanks to the M48 A5 standard and had introduced new artillery

systems, including twin barrelled, towed anti-aircraft guns and a battalion of 155 mm self-propelled howitzers. You stated that these changes substantially enhanced the military capabilities of the Turkish forces in Cyprus.

The strengthening of the offensive capabilities of the Turkish occupation forces in Cyprus, coupled with the completion of extensive fortifications all along the buffer zone, are indicative of the real intentions of Turkey in Cyprus: that is, the imposition of a military solution, something to which Turkey resorts with utter contempt to international law and civilized behaviour. The Turkish military invasion of 20 July 1974, the twenty-first anniversary of which was celebrated in the occupied areas only yesterday with military parades during which Turkish air-force F-16 aircraft and helicopters violated the airspace of Cyprus in a show of arrogance and military might, is a constant reminder to the international community of Turkey's way of dealing with weaker neighbours.

Referring to the Turkish celebrations on the twenty-first anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey, the Turkish daily Hurriyet, in a front-page article entitled "Invasion celebrations" on 20 July 1995, reveals the existence of military plans which can be implemented at any time against Cyprus. In these plans, according to Hurriyet, areas of Turkish attack have been defined on maps as well as in other information. Hurriyet's article confirms the fact that, as far as Turkey is concerned, the military operation in Cyprus was not over with the occupation of almost 40 per cent of Cyprus in 1974. It is an ongoing process with well defined objectives, which, unless firmly rebuffed by the international community, Turkey will implement as it implemented the 1974 invasion on the island.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus strongly denounces the latest aggressive acts of Turkey, which constitute a direct threat to the peace and security in the island and in the eastern Mediterranean in general, a flagrant violation of the spirit of the 1989 unmanning agreement and of the recently adopted Security Council resolution 1000 (1995) of 23 June 1995.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus considers it imperative that all these Turkish military fortifications along the buffer zone, which may be used by the occupation army for launching an attack, be demolished immediately, under UNFICYP supervision.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus hopes that you will take all measures necessary for resolving this extremely serious problem, which constitutes a new source of tension and threatens the security of the island and of the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexandros N. VIKIS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.